GENERAL NEWS.

Immense damage to Texas crops by frost is reported.

Michael Shea died at Indianapolis, Tuesday, aged 118 years.

Japan is considering a project for the nationalization of railways.

The maple sugar crop of Vermont will be a total failure this year.

A presidential boom in behalf of Richard Olney has been launched.

Reports to the effect that Alger will soon resign are again in circulation at Washington.

Two thousand men are idle as the result of the pantsmakers' strike at Philadelphia.

Chicago's mayoralty election will be held early in April. The registration shows 72,382 votes.

Half the business portion of Harrison Valley, Pa., was destroyed by fire Sunday. Loss, $40,000.

Admiral Dewey is said to have cabled to Washington a requisition for more men and more ships.

Denmark proposes to demand cession of a treaty port in China, and will send out a cruiser for the purpose.

Mrs. Jane Stanford, while in New York last month, sold 33,300 shares of Central Pacific stock for $1,731,000.

Exceptionally cold weather continues throughout England, varying from 10 to 20 degrees of frost or above zero.

Washington gossips are busy with the name of General MacArthur as a presidential possibility for next year.

Major James F. Milligan, a veteran of the Mexican and civil wars, is dead at his home in Norfolk, Va., aged 70 years.

American tars engaged in a serious riot among themselves at Kingston, Jamaica, Tuesday night. Several were wounded.

J. Sterling Morton, of Nebraska, is credited with an intention to form a new national political party in the near future.

The Call says that Governor Bradley, of Kentucky, has decided to settle permanently in San Francisco and take up the practice of law.

The transport Dixie has been ordered to proceed with haste from New York to Trinidad to bring home the Fourth Tennessee volunteers.

Ambassador White has been assured by the Berlin government that its influence will be exerted against religious intolerance in Samoa.

Restoration of the old scale of wages in the York, Me., cotton mills is announced to take place next week. Seventeen hundred men are affected.

The convention of the Woodmen of the World, which has been in session in Memphis for nearly two weeks, adjourned sine die at the morning session Friday.

Brigadier-General Flagler, chief of ordnance, is lying at the point of death at Fortress Monroe, with rheumatism, complicated with kidney trouble.

Claude Holland, a victim of the Santa Fe wreck, at Lang, Kan., in 1897, has just received $11,500 in settlement of his claim against that company.

The lower house of the Missouri legislature, after a sharp conflict, passed to engrossment the bill reducing passenger rates on railroads from 3 to 1½ cents a mile.

Ex-Governor Thomas C. Fletcher, of Missouri, died in Washington City Saturday afternoon. Four weeks ago last Monday, Governor Fletcher was stricken with paralysis.

There was a heavy fall of snow in Kansas Sunday, accompanied by a stiff north wind. The farmers are discouraged, as they have been unable to do any spring work yet.

The condition of Rudyard Kipling, who was reported to have suffered a slight relapse a few days ago, is again improving, and he is better than at any time since his illness began.

The National Zeitung says the German proposal for the partition of the Samoan islands may be regarded as abandoned, owing to lack of response, particularly from Great Britain.

There is a scarcity of small paper currency in the east. This pressure is already such that the treasury is constantly refusing to supply paper currency in exchange for gold deposits at New York.

Wednesday night the two mine pump men, Charles Reuss and Burt Frey, who were imprisoned in the Bonaire mine, at Leadville, 13 days ago, were reached by the rescuers and restored unhurt to their friends.

Claus Spreckles has decided to establish in San Francisco an electric plant that will be without a rival in the world, and which will furnish to the people of San Francisco light, heat and power almost at cost.

The United States cruiser Chicago with ex-Secretary Sherman on board, sailed from Santiago Saturday, going through the Windward passage. Captain Cooper said he expected to reach Hampton Roads in four days.

It is reported in Wall street that the champagne importing houses in the United States have about completed a new combination to control all the popular brands. The new company will be capitalized at $50,000,000.

Henry Sanderson, a young farmer, 22 years old, of Jackson county, Kansas, in a fit of jealousy shot and mortally wounded Mrs. John Fleischer in an attempt to kill Mada Fleischer, the 16-year-old daughter, who had jilted Sanderson.

In their desire to effect a friendly settlement of the Samoan difficulty, the German authorities have decided to discontinue their support of Mataafa hoping that this will induce the United States to recall Chief Justice Chambers.

Robert J. Burdette, the humorist, and Mrs. Clara Baker were married Saturday at Pasadena. Mr. and Mrs. Burdette will make their future home in Pasadena, where the humorist will fill the pulpit of the First Presbyterian church.

In a fire in a boarding house in Memphis, Tenn., four people lost their lives Thursday night and several others were seriously injured. The dead are: Mrs. Chapin, Roy Chapin, her son, aged 10; Chester Chapin, aged 4, and Dix Smith.

The Woodmen of the World in session at Memphis, Tenn., passed a resolution for a home for the sovereign camp to cost $60,000. Ten cities will bid for the location. The sovereign commander's salary is fixed at $7500 per annum.

Arrangements are being made for a question, to be held at Guthrie, O. T., in June next, of the rough riders who fought in the battles about Santiago. A letter has been received from Governor Roosevelt, of New York, accepting an invitation to attend.

Attorney General Griggs will advise Secretary Alger to grant no concessions of any character in Cuba. He has under consideration several questions in connection with desired concessions in Cuba, but he will determine them adversely to the applicants.

General Porter, United States ambassador, at Paris answering an inquiry of a correspondent, said he was unable to discuss rumors to the effect that he may succeed Alger as secretary of war, as all information on the subject ought to come from Washington.

The Western Wholesale Druggists' Association, of St. Louis, has taken steps to cut off the sources of supply in trade of Western retail druggists who sell patent medicines at cut rates. War between the association and the cut-rate druggists is expected to result.

James A. Bracken, engineer on a freight train on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago railway, fell asleep and his train crashed into a freight train standing on the track at Pittsburg, killing him and the brakeman and causing $25,000 loss to the company.

Three weeks ago Charles Officer, a Council Bluffs banker, lost in Omaha a package containing $5000 in $50 bills. He offered $1000 reward for its return. Last night an unknown man returned $4000, saying a messenger boy had found the package and secreted it in an ash barrel.

O. E. Westenhaver, a prominent lawyer, was shot and killed at Hayville, Ohio, Saturday, by Paul and John Zeltner who were indebted to him for an attorney's fee. The brothers afterwards barricaded themselves in their home and the militia was called out but they still hold the fort.

General Otis wires the department: Have purchased all the gunboats in the Philippines, of Spain, 13 in number, now at Bamboanga. Half of them are in service and in able condition. Payment to be made in cash from the public funds upon delivery at Manila. They will be sent for this week.

The Vienna correspondent of the London Times, discussing the Chinese question, says: "Little love is lost between Japan and the United States. Certainly Japan is not anxious to see the Americans obtain a footing in China, particularly on account of America's protective proclivities."

It is rumored that Secretary Alger will leave the cabinet, and that his successor will be General Anson G. McCook, of New York. The fact that General Anson G. McCook refuses to talk about his reported selection to succeed General Alger is taken by his friends to signify that he has actually been appointed to the post.

E. V. Brewster, who has charge of the $1-a-head Jefferson dinner of New York democrats, announces that he has received a telegram from William J. Bryan saying that he would attend the dollar dinner on April 19. Brewster said the dinner would endorse the Chicago platform from beginning to end.

Dr. L. B. Tyson, a druggist of Kenton, O., has prepared, with his sisters, to claim the enormous fortune left by the eccentric multi-millionaire, James Tyson, who died recently in Melbourne, Australia, bequeathing the government $4,000,000 and leaving over $10,000,000 to be settled upon unknown heirs.

John J. Overton, who will be 103 years old his next birthday, left St. Joseph Monday, unattended, to visit a son at Belsa, Cal. He is in vigorous health, and looked with disdain upon a suggestion that he take a sleeper. He will tour the Western states before returning. A year ago he married a widow of 76. She recently became insane.

If the same regulations prevailed in the army as the navy, Eagan, formerly commissary general of subsistence, would be courtmartialed and punished for incompetency. Enough has been developed before the beef inquiry board to warrant such action, but the fact that no corruption can be proved, but simply neglect and incompetence, will allow Eagan to continue on the retired list, drawing good pay and enjoying immunity both from his black-guardism and his incompetence.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NEWS.

J. T. Frazer, aged 58 years, died suddenly at his home in Portland Monday.

Robert Taylor, only sixteen years old, is a prosperous merchant in Baker City.

Serious damage is being created by floods in the San Joaquin valley, Calif.

C. D. Peale, of Albina, Portland, was severely burned by an explosion of gasoline while cleaning clothes.

Members of the new state board of immigration will meet at Portland or Salem at an early date, to organize.

Offers are made to establish a large beet sugar factory at Yakima if local capitalists will take $150,000 in stock.

Columbia is the first county in Oregon to pay its state taxes for this year in full, a check for $7957.66, the amount due from it, having been received at the state treasurer's office Monday.

Robert Bender on Sunday shot and killed a man named McGonigle, at Prosser, Wash. The men were hunting, and the shooting was accidental, caused by Bender stumbling as he was raising his gun to fire at some birds.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Association recently organized in Lane county, will hold the first annual reunion in Eugene about the middle of next June, and already the committee on arrangements and program is at work.

The general offices of the Pacific Coast Steamship company are to be moved from San Francisco to Seattle. The reason for the transfer is its increasing traffic on the Great Northern and greater competition with the Canadian Pacific.

Mrs. Lydia A. Megnet, a pioneer of 1851, died at Eagle Creek, Clackamas county, Sunday, aged 87. She was born in Indiana in 1812, and before starting to Oregon was married to J. B. Howlett, who died while crossing the plains in 1851.

Kitty Wannenmacher, aged 15 years, was shot and fatally wounded in San Francisco by her foster brother, Joseph Mitter, 19 years old, while the young man was playing that he was a highwayman, with a rifle which was not supposed to be loaded.

John Mitchell, on Wednesday at Portland, was sentenced to 8 years in the penitentiary at Salem for highway robbery. Mitchell is below 30 years of age. He had only recently been released from the Walla Walla penitentiary for a similar crime, where he served a three years' term.

A. T. Shorthill, Mike O'Brien and Jeff Turpin, three miners returning from the Buffalo Hump country, were drowned in Salmon river four miles above the old wire bridge a few days ago. Jim McCaffery, one of the party, succeeded in reaching the shore. The boat they were in capsized in a strong current.

Dr. Charles Corey shot and killed his wife yesterday morning at Tacoma, while the two were lying asleep. Corey was ill, and his story of the affair is that he was laboring under a nightmare, believing his wife was being pursued by a stranger who was intent on killing her.

SEWER GAS.

Two Ways to Detect the Dangerous Poison.

Whenever you suspect sewer gas in the house don't delay investigation. Sickness is the sure result. Two excellent tests are in use, and are not expensive. The peppermint test and the smoke test. The latter is regarded as the most absolute, though both are used. When such a test is made the escapes for the water are plugged up and smoke is pumped into the pipes from the roof. For this purpose there is a special machine, which combines a furnace and a smoking apparatus. Into this are put old rags or discarded Christmas trees, or anything which will make a fine smudge. As soon as these are in good smoking condition the smudge is forced down into the pipes and a tour of examination is made. If the smoke escapes at any point it can be detected at once. The peppermint test is made from the roof also. The escapes are plugged up and then about a pint of peppermint oil is poured in the roof pipe, followed by a bucket of hot water. The odor of the peppermint is so penetrating that it will quickly escape at any defective spot. But the man who handles the peppermint has to stay on the roof until the examination is complete, or the whole house will be permeated with the odor.

POLITICS IN 1900.

The Portland Oregonian says: "A conservative republican, a supporter of the expansion policy of the administration, writes the Oregonian that he is afraid 'the debt incurred by the war and the expense necessary to maintain our military government in Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines will render the administration so unpopular that the republicans will lose the next election, particularly if the democratic party organization should drift back into an atmosphere of common-sense respecting its policy on the currency and some of its more radical socialistic notions. If the anti-Bryan element controls, the democrats have a good prospect of electing the next president. . . . Unless it can be demonstrated before the next presidential election that the commercial advantages we are realizing or derive from the political control of the islands is greater than the expense we are under to keep them, the people will regard them as a bad bargain and vote for the party that will let them go. The question must sooner or later be determined upon a commercial basis. The advantage or disadvantage of the bargain will have to be decided upon the basis of dollars and cents.'

"Our friend is plausible, but not profound. The question whether it will pay in dollars and cents to hold Porto Rico and the Philippines cannot be determined so soon as the next presidential election. What it is best for us to do with these islands cannot be quickly determined. There are a great many factors in the problem to be solved and they are not all so absolutely material as a mere question of immediate dollars and cents. It would pay the American people to build the Nicaragua or some trans-isthmian canal, even if the tolls of the canal never declared a dividend to the government on the original investment. Does anybody suppose Great Britain would sell her control of the Suez canal tomorrow on the ground that from the standpoint of dollars and cents she received no dividend from her original investment? Whether we hang on to the Philippines or let go of them will not be decided as a matter of pure dollars and cents. We have thus far insisted on their annexation not on the ground of dollars and cents at all; we have assumed the responsibility for their government as a matter of national honor and humanity. We had to choose whether we would return the islands to the dismal medieval despotism of Spain or leave them a pirate ship upon an outlaw ocean. We could not with dignity or decency or humanity do otherwise than to accept our responsibility. We upset and expelled the Spaniard; we were bound in national honor to replace the Spaniard with a civilized authority and responsibility, and we have done this with no thought of the question of dollars and cents, or of dividend on our so-called investment.

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"The American people are common sense when they are cool, and they have generally conceded that the administration was right when it expelled the Spanish responsible government to replace it with our own, and until we have established a native government in those islands that is more responsible than the pirate ship of Aguinaldo we shall stay there, whether our so-called investment declares dividends or not. The question whether it is best for us to retire from the Philippines or not cannot possibly be fairly settled before the decision of the next presidential election. The hard, common sense of the people will stand by the administration and decline to measure the question of the Philippines by the mere test of dollars and cents. The people will say we annexed the islands not for dollars and cents, but to do our national duty: whether we lose a dollar or make a dollar, we are going to solve this Philippine problem in consonance with our national duty and dignity.

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"So far as the control of the democratic party drifting back into the hands of the common sense men, who believe in honest money, is concerned, it is the baseless fabric of a vision. The national democracy today are controlled by the South and the Middle West, and outside of the New England Atlantic seaboard there is no democratic state that is not throwing up its hat for the reaffirmation of the Chicago platform of 1896 and the renomination of Bryan. On the mere petty question of dollars and cents the nation will never vote down the republican party. It will repudiate its blunders of administration, but it will never sit down on its expansion today policy on the cheap plea of 'dollars and cents.'"

The Dalles Times-Mountaineer says: "The East Oregonian insists that if McKinley is renominated in 1900 he will certainly be elected. What foundation it has for such a belief is not explained. But it is certainly not because of the popularity of his administration, or on account of anything he had done since he was inaugurated president. We predict that before it closes, McKinley's administration will be more unpopular than that of any of his predecessors, and that he will have a very slim following in the republican national convention."

A CREDITOR NATION.

From time to time within the last year I have adverted to the fact that the United States had at last become financially independent of Europe. This was demonstrated last year by the ease with which the American people absorbed the $200,000,000 war loan, subscribing it seven times over, thus displaying an ability to finance the government in the direst of emergencies, and that, too, without, so far as appeared, disturbing business in the least degree or preventing or retarding the launching and development of new enterprises.

When the Spanish war cloud first appeared in the political heavens European financiers not only doubted the ability of the American people to supply their government with sufficient funds wherewith to prosecute the war, but were inclined to laugh at the idea. They assumed a patronizing manner, offering to float our loan in Europe, and taking great credit to themselves for their friendship for the United States. This simply showed how high our credit stood abroad, and that European financiers still retained the power of recognizing a good thing when they saw it. After our own people had advanced all the money the government needed in its emergency these old-world financiers were inclined to call it a grand outburst of patriotism—which, of course, it was to a large extent—and expressed fears that in giving way to this lofty sentiment we had crippled our financial resources and that business would suffer in consequence. Their fears have prove entirely unfounded.

This has caused an awakening among European financiers similar to that aroused among European statesmen and cabinets by our successes during the war on sea and land. The financiers, as well as the statesmen of the old world, now hail the United States as a new world power—a power that hereafter will be reckoned with not only on land and sea, but in the far-reaching field of finance. And yet it is but a little more than a hundred years ago that this government was struggling into existence by the aid of small loans from Holland—that is, they would be regarded as small loans in this day, but in that they were large and all-important.

Another incident showing that the financial center of gravity has shifted from London to New York, at least so far as the United States is concerned—a change that confirms our financial independence of Europe—is that this country within a brief period and with perfect ease has absorbed $100,000,000 of our own securities returned from Europe. This tremendous financial operation did not create a ripple upon the surface of the sea of finance. It is not so long ago that it would have created a great flurry in the stock market, if not a panic. Now it passes almost without remark. Speaking of present conditions, President Williams of the Chemical National bank of New York, who, like Secretary Gage, is a student as well as an experienced manager of financial affairs, said:

"New York holds the ship hand. We are in a position to dictate the rate of exchange for the first time in our history, a very different position from that which prevailed until a very short time ago, as time is counted in matters of this kind. We can, if we choose, raise the rate for money and thus compel Europe to liquidate her indebtedness to us in gold, which, of course, she would have to send to us. When the gold came the rate for money would fall again, as by an automatic process."

One of the significant features of the financial situation is that the West has been loaning millions of dollars to New York, or rather in New York. This is decidedly a new experience. It is the first time this sort of thing has happened, for heretofore the West has been a borrower from, not a lender in, the East. That that vast section with its great needs should have all the money it requires for its own use and a surplus to lend makes the veteran financiers of New York and the East rub their eyes in amazement. They have received a new sensation, and from a quarter whence they least expected it.

TAXING THE SPECULATORS.

It is reported that the United States supreme court will announce a decision within a day or two, if it has not already done so, the effect of which will be to compel commission merchants and brokers upon boards of trade to pay the government hundreds of thousands of dollars annually as long as the war revenue law remains in operation.

The decision, it is said, will sustain one of the most important features of the war revenue act. It is that section which requires the seller on an exchange to deliver to the buyer a bill, memorandum, agreement or other evidence of sale, showing the date, the name of the seller, the amount of the sale, and the matter or thing to which it refers. This memorandum or agreement shall bear internal revenue stamps at the rate of 1 cent for each $100 in value of the property sold. The penalty for violating this clause is a fine from $500 to $1000, or imprisonment for six months.

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Two cases were brought by Chicago brokers against this feature of the law, and the decision will be of vast importance to brokers everywhere. In either case the government's right to tax was not assailed, but in both the brokers denied the government's right to compel them to issue a memorandum.

The Supreme court, it is stated, holds that inasmuch as the memorandum is simply an instrument to facilitate the collection of the tax, it is a constitutional requirement, because unless a memorandum were issued it would be obviously impossible for the government to collect the tax, there being nothing to attach the stamps to and nothing to show the amount of tax due.

One of these cases brought by Edwin S. Skillen of Chicago. The record shows that on November 2, 1898, Mr. Skillen, a member of the Chicago Board of Trade, agreed to sell to Frank Harlow 5,000 bushels of corn to be delivered at any time during the month of December that Mr. Skillen should select. Mr. Skillen did not deliver to Mr. Harlow a bill or memorandum of said agreement as required by the war revenue act.

* * *

On November 25, 1898, Mr. Harlow agreed to sell to Mr. Skillen a like quantity of corn to be delivered on any day in December that Mr. Harlow might select. Afterward, in accordance with the general usage in such cases, the one contract was offset against the other, and a settlement of both was effected by the payment by Mr. Skillen to Mr. Harlow of the difference in the selling prices of the two contracts.

Upon an information by the district attorney, reciting these facts, Mr. Skillen was convicted in the District court at Chicago. He at once appealed to the supreme court, the case being a test one on the validity of the disputed section of the law.

The other case was brought by James Nicol, also a member of the Chicago board of trade. The only difference in the case is that Mr. Nicol made upon the Chicago board of trade a sale for present delivery of existing corn then owned by him and refused to give a memorandum of sale, while Mr. Skillen made an agreement to sell corn for future delivery without having at any time any corn to deliver on such agreement.

A REMARKABLE INCIDENT.

At the regular meeting of the Methodist ministers of New York a few days ago the proposition that "the inherency and infallibility of the Bible are no longer possible of belief among reasoning men" was advanced in a paper by read by the Rev. S. P. Cadman, pastor of the Metropolitan Temple. Mr. Cadman pointed out alleged discrepancies and asserted that the time had come when people could find the truth only at its foundation head, Christ.

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At the conclusion of Mr. Cadman's paper, the 400 ministers present, including Bishop Edward G. Andrews, applauded him and entered into a forceful discussion of the proposition. The paper was of a series, the first of which was based on practically the same grounds and was read at last week's meeting.

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The utterances contained in these papers involve a radical departure from the tenets of the Methodist church since its foundation and were accepted by the most representative body of the clergy of the church in America. It places the Bible on a plane with historical works and rejects the authenticity of all parts of the scriptures that are not in accord with modern human reason.

* * *

Mr. Cadman said the authorship of the greater part of the Old Testament was unknown. The New Testament likewise contained many contradictions. The Bible, the church, the ministry, he said, were agencies. The true source of inspiration was neither a book, nor a church, nor a ministry, but the living Christ himself.

* * *

By the new construction the truth of such Bible stories as Jonah and the whale, the fate of Lot's wife, Elijah's ascension, the age of Methuselah, Daniel in the lion's den, and God speaking to Moses out of a burning bush are questioned, thus undermining the fundamental pillar of Methodist theology.

Hung Up to Dry.

The Indiana legislature voted to return to the state of Texas a flag captured from a Texas regiment during the civil war. The Texas legislature thereupon invited the Indiana governor and legislature to come down and have a blow-out. A complication has arisen. Somebody, digging into records, discovered that the flag was never captured, but was found hanging on a fence post ten miles from Rome, Ga., where it had been hung up to dry. The festivities are probably off.

A STORY OF TODAY.

"Your cab is waiting, Mr. Blakeslee."

"Then I must go, I suppose."

"Yes, I suppose so. That was your intention, I believe."

"I believe it was. There doesn't seem to be any particular reason why I should stay around here any longer."

Here he glanced at her a trifle expectantly. "No," she replied, absently, smoothing a tiny wrinkle in the covering of the hard little hospital bed.

"Oh, you don't think there is?" he demanded, fiercely, stopping in his task of buckling the straps of his army blanket.

"Well, the doctors say there isn't," she said, and then commenced straightening the bottles on the little stand with rather nervous fingers.

"Confound the doctors!" He gave a vicious and final tug to the straps, and then added: "They're a precious set—the doctors."

"Why, one would think you hadn't been well treated here," she said, with rather an unsteady laugh.

"Oh," exclaimed the young officer, "you've treated me well enough—just as well as you would anybody else, I suppose."

A shadow of a smile crossed her lips, but there were tears in her eyes he did not see.

* * *

"I don't complain," he went on bitterly, watching the graceful lines of the little figure in the blue and white strived dress, as it moved to and fro.

"Tomorrow they'll bring some other poor fellow in here and you'll take just as good care of him as you did of me, and let him go with just as much cheerfulness, too. Poor devil." And the young lieutenant went to the window and drummed on the glass with impatient fingers as he stared gloomily at the little patch of gray January sky visible above the high roof of the church next door.

Through many weeks of pain and weakness and weariness indescribable he had watched that little scrap of gray as he lay helpless in the grasp of that terrible fever—the insidious, treacherous, deadly fever of the tropics that had crept into his veins from the trenches of Santiago.

At first it had meant nothing to him but so much blank space, that patch of sky.

Then it began to take on a new meaning, as he noticed that it was often the background for a picture—a charming silhouette of a girlish face, with a little tip-tilted nose and tender curves of cheek and chin and waving masses of hair surmounted by a tiny, stiff cap of diaphanous white.

He came to watch for this dainty vision, and sometimes in his fevered dreams he would see it when it was not there, always bending toward him with a smile of divine pity on the sweet lips.

He could see it now, though his back was turned to the girl busy at the table, and he gave an inward groan as he remembered that soon he would see it no more, except in dreams.

No one knew what the face had grown to be to him in the past weeks. No one ever should know, he resolved, with a little tightening of the lips, as he turned from the window.

She did not care for his going—that was evident.

"We take good care of everyone, I hope," she was saying, somewhat coldly. "As for our being glad to see them go—that is nonsense. We are very sorry to lose you, Mr. Blakeslee—"

A groan burst from his lips.

"Oh, spare me that, I beg," he exclaimed, wrenching himself into his blue cape-overcoat.

"And we're always interested to know what the—the patients do after they leave us," she proceeded, hesitatingly. "Shall you return to the army, Mr. Blakeslee?"

"I suppose so," he replied. "I'll go out to Manila and get shot, if they'll waste the powder and ball on me."

"How cowardly that sounds!" she cried, indignantly, and the little woman of 5 feet 1 surveyed the big soldier with curling lip and dark, scornful eyes.

"It would be braver, perhaps, to stay at home and face death in the shape of a diphtheria microbe or a mettlesome horseless cab," he said with rather unsuccessful sarcasm.

"It's braver to face life than death, sometimes," was her reply. "Why shouldn't you want to live?"

* * *

He crossed the room suddenly and stood close to her, looking down into the flashing eyes.

"I wonder if you know how pretty you are?"

"I wonder if you know how rude you are?" she retorted.

"Do you suppose it's easy to say good by to a girl with a face like yours?" he went on recklessly, taking her hands—the poor little hands all reddened and roughened by hospital work.

"Then it's only my face that makes it hard. You flatter me, sir." She had withdrawn her hands promptly from his eager clasp.

"Oh, well, it might be a little easier if you were crosseyed or looked like—like Lydia Pinkham," he admitted. And they both laughed.

After all, they were so young.

"And you expect me to go away after all these weeks with you and pretend not to care?"

"You have no right to care," she cried, drawing herself up proudly.

"Ah, give me the right," he said.

"I cannot go away without you, and leave you here to do this sort of work. This hospital life is unfit for you—it is wearing you out."

"Mr. Blakeslee, you do not know what you are asking. I've taken up this work against the advice and wishes of my family and friends. To give it up now would be to acknowledge my failure. It would be too humiliating. You must not ask me to. And then—your own career. You have made a glorious record so far—you must not think of anything else for years to come. And your country needs you."

"No one else does, evidently," he said bitterly. "Well, good-by, little girl, and God bless you." And without another word he left the room.

The young officer strode along the echoing corridors with hasty steps. His heart was hot within him and he was ashamed to find tears in his eyes.

But when he reached the great doorway he hesitated.

Once outside and he had left her behind him forever. He could not leave her this way. Without a word of thanks for the tender nursing she had given him. She must not think him ungrateful. Swiftly he turned and retraced his steps.

The door of the little room where he had lain so long was partly closed when he reached it. What if she had gone.

With a beating heart he pushed the door open softly and went in.

And there she was—the stout-hearted young woman who had so bravely sent him forth to his duty and so sturdily kept to hers, with her head on the pillow—his pillow—crying her heart out, just like any other unhappy girl.

A moment he stood transfixed.

Then in one bound he crossed the narrow room and took her in his arms, and as their lips met two careers that might have been melted into thin air had disappeared forever.

EDGAR TEMPLE FIELD.

THE ARMY BEEF SCANDAL.

By the later witnesses before the court of inquiry the truth about the canned beef undoubtedly is told. The cattle used by the canners were so inferior that the meat could not be replaced on the block for sale to customers who could see it; and this meat, with other odds and ends, the various refuse of the slaughter-pens, was put up in tins and sold to the government for soldiers' rations. The mess was cooked or partially cooked, by being raised to a temperature in water of 200 to 210 degrees, and then the cans were sealed up. The treatment took out of the meat most of the little nutriment there was in it, and converted it into a repulsive and even loathsome mess, which poisoned those whom hunger forced to eat it. Such was the food sold to the government as canned roast beef and canned corned beef. It was merely the boiled flesh of miserably poor cattle—boiled in the cans and sealed up, with no care of selection and no cleanliness of treatment. Yet the scoundrels who furnished it got full prices, and Alger's commissary department let it pass.

* * *

Though General Miles has not made his charge specifically good, that poisonous food, in the form of beef, was furnished and accepted "under pretense of an experiment"—for this was no experiment, but only conscious and criminal swindling—the disclosures nevertheless bring out a worse state of facts than his charge even implied. Much of the beef furnished the troops was utterly vile and loathsome stuff, of which complaint was general among the men. But it is retorted that the charge made by General Miles related to embalmed beef, or to beef that had been chemically treated, and this canned putrefaction did not fall within the description. Such quibble is nothing now. The country wants the actual facts. It has been proven, however, that there was some of this "doctored" beef. Witnesses have testified to knowledge of the existence of seven quarters of it; and General Weston, Eagan's successor in the commissary department, admits that a representative of the Armour company talked to him about this process, and wanted to put some of the beef on board ship, in order to learn how long it would keep. It is asserted, however, that "the commissary department had nothing officially to do with it. Hence though it was not the "embalmed" beef that made the greater part of the trouble, it is certain therefore there was such an article; and it is to the story that started with the embalmed beef that the country is indebted for the revelation of this grosser criminal outrage upon its soldiers.

* * *

In the face of these disclosures the effort to "punish" General Miles is not likely to meet with much success. The country would not have it, and the administration will be too wise to press this matter to its own undoing. In many quarters General Miles is not personally liked; but the inquiry now is not about his vanities or other peculiarities of character. It relates to a matter of deeper consequence.—Portland Oregonian.

THE HABITS OF CHILDREN.

Several school teachers and parents in New York city have set out to make a scientific study of children's lies and lying habits. The World's Sunday Magazine reports the results so far attained.

* * *

The investigators have already got so far as to make a preliminary classification of lies and to frame certain generalizations concerning them. One of these is that girls tell more lies than boys do. The teachers are disposed to account for this by the fact that some lies are told to conceal things of which those who tell them are ashamed, and as girls care more than boys do for appearances they more frequently prevaricate for that propose.

* * *

But there is a better explanation, we think. The teachers themselves tell us that by far the most numerous class of lies are those told to avoid punishment, in which they confirm Queen Elizabeth's dictum that "a lie is merely an intellectual method of meeting a difficulty." As girls are more afraid of punishment than boys, perhaps this may account for the numerical superiority of their lies.

* * *

Another interesting generalization made by these observers is that when a boy is caught lying he gives the lie up, but a girl similarly caught usually persists in the falsehood even when she knows its hopelessness. The explanation suggested is that the boy has "a more logical mind" than the girl.

* * *

The most interesting of all these observations is that many boys and girls with vivid imaginations tell "whoppers" from the mere love of astonishing their fellows and interesting them, and sometimes as a purely wanton indulgence of a creative faculty whose exercise is pleasing to themselves. But no proper classification should include such falsehoods in the category of lies. They are not lies at all. They are mere romances, fiction in its earliest and crudest form, poems and novels by untrained hands. If the investigation is to be fruitful in its best way the inquirers should from the first learn and recognize this distinction. It makes all the difference between turpitude and innocent intellectual exercise.

Hawaii Crude Sugar.

It is stated on good authority that the Oregon Sugar Company, of La Grande, is taking steps to refine at its new factory in La Grande crude Hawaiian sugar, and that if they do, there will be established between Portland and Honolulu a line of steamers to handle the business, probably by the O. R. & N. Co. Enough return cargoes for the steamers could be obtained at Portland to make the line pay expenses at the beginning, and it is believed by those posted in traffic matters that it would be the beginning of a large and growing traffic between Oregon and these new possessions in the Pacific of the United States.

Visiting the Coast.

James H. Eckles, ex-controller of the currency, accompanied by his family, are visiting the coast, being at present in Southern California. Mr. Eckles is now president of the Commercial National bank of Chicago. His present visit is of a personal nature, looking to the financial affairs of the coast as they will be affected by the increased trade with the Philippines and the Orient.

Equal to the Occasion.

Senator Hoar, who is a cousin of Mr. Evarts, tells how the latter's mother, a daughter of one of Connecticut's first governors, opened the door for Washington as he left her father's house. She was then a girl of 6. "Thank you, my little maid," said the general. "I wish you a better office." "Yes," she replied, "to let you in; not to pass you out."

There Was a Difference.

"And you have made Sam Jackson a deacon in your church?"

"Yes, sah. Dat is, he's a brevet deacon, sah."

"And what's a brevet deacon, George?"

"He's a deacon dat don't handle no money, sah."

Spanish officers acquainted with the Philippine islands continue to predict the failure of Major-General Otis' campaign, notwithstanding the American success. They say that while the Americans will undoubtedly win all the battles, they will lose the campaign itself, owing to the aptitude of the Tagalos to conduct a war of surprises and ambuscades.

J. H. Moon, a Portland millwright, has invented a machine which he alleges will pump water out of a well to a certain height by the power generated by the water in falling to the ground. All that is necessary is to give the pump a few strokes, when it will take hold of the handle itself and proceed with the business.

THE TRUST OLIGARCHY.

The Chicago Times-Herald says: "Under the title of 'The Trust Oligarchy' the St. Paul Pioneer Press has a pertinent and timely appeal to the republican party to take the initiative in dealing with those great trade combinations that take advantage of our revenue laws to strangle competition and enhance prices. Not counting those great trusts that came into existence prior to 1898, such as the Standard Oil, the American Sugar Refinery, the American Tobacco company and many others, it estimates that the past fourteen months have witnessed the formation of no less than eighty trusts with an aggregate capitalization of over $2,000,000,000.

* * *

"While we do not share in our contemporary's rather hysterical view of the terrible portent of these aggregations of capital as 'devouring monsters,' 'mammoth monopolies' and as 'constituting a monstrous oligarchy of monopoly,' we do believe that whenever they stifle competition and enhance prices to the consumer they should be regarded as inimical to public policy and should be shown no mercy by courts or legislatures. How far a trust or combination which relies solely upon the natural and economic forces of organization and capital to increase and cheapen production, and which results in supplying a better article at a lower cost than could be produced under competitive conditions, may be justified, is a question for debating societies. It is undoubtedly the duty of legislatures and courts to protect society from the aggregations of capital which destroy competition in order to enhance prices. For these there can be no excuse, protection or defense.

* * *

"So when the Pioneer Press declares that it is the duty of the republican party to repeal every protective duty under the shelter of which its beneficiaries have organized a trust or combination of any sort to advance prices it meets the views of the Times-Herald to a dot. The purpose of the protective tariff was to foster industries, not to protect monopolies.

* * *

"Most certainly it should be the duty of congress, in both branches of which the Republicans have a majority, to abolish or suspend the protective duty on the products of any industry which has been organized into a trust and which has arbitrarily raised the prices of such products.

* * *

"No mercy or consideration should be shown to any combination of capital that takes advantage of a protective tariff to mulct American consumers. It should be the first office of the republican majority in congress to free its skirts from all responsibility for trusts which under shelter of the tariff exact high prices from the people.

* * *

"Wherever the protective tariff enhances the price of the product of a trust to the American consumer it should be reduced or removed entirely. That is a pretty safe proposition. Its adoption will remove the the stigma of fostering trusts from the republican party."

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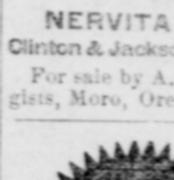

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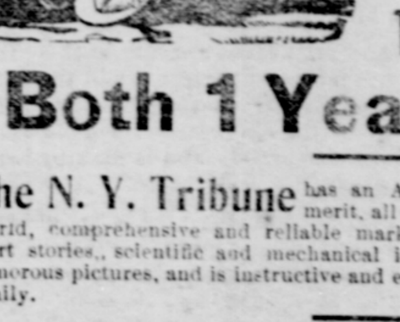

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